



Connecticut State Dental Association

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**Legislative Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Governor's Bill No. 7027 – An Act Concerning the State Budget for the
Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2019, and Making Appropriations Therefor
Thursday, February 23, 2017**

Dear Senator Formica, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Laurence Levy. I am a member of the Board of Governors of the Connecticut State Dental Association. I have been practicing dentistry in Middletown, CT since 1991. I am writing this testimony to oppose the Governor's proposal to repeal mandated reporting, eliminate the professional assistance account and move the funds to the general fund. To date, the professional assistance account has an excess of \$800,000.

This fund was established on October 1, 2015 via Public 15-5 Sec. 479 and Public Act 15-244 Sections 137 to financially support HAVEN. The licensing fee of every health care professional in the State of Connecticut were increased by \$5.00 and that \$5.00 was to be contributed to the professional assistance account by DPH, then given to HAVEN. DPH to date has not released any of these funds to HAVEN.

HAVEN (Health Assistance Intervention Education Network) is a nonprofit corporation established by Public Act 07-103, signed in to law by Governor Jodi Rell on June 12, 2007. HAVEN is a confidential assistance program for health care professionals licensed by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, suffering from physical or mental illness, emotional disorder or chemical dependency. HAVEN's primary mission is to enhance patient safety by supporting the health and wellbeing of Connecticut health professionals.

HAVEN needs these funds to stay in existence. The amount cannot be decreased or eliminated. The expansion of mandated reporting in 2015 caused an expansion of HAVEN's services. Haven has provided these services as mandated in 2015, now the DPH needs to release the funds promised.

Regardless if mandated reporting is repealed, the funds collected were always earmarked for HAVEN, not for the DPH or the state's general fund. Please support HAVEN and its activities. The safety of the residents of the State of Connecticut depend on it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurence K Levy DMD